



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

Legislative Update, Week of April 16, 2010

On Monday in House Health and Human Services Committee, Senate Bill 117, Concerning Medicaid Coverage for Over-the-Counter Medications, sponsored by Senator Foster and Representative Primavera, passed amended to the Committee of the Whole. The bill adds over-the-counter medications identified through the drug utilization review process to services provided under Medicaid when the medications are prescribed by a licensed practitioner or a qualified licensed pharmacist. The medical services board is required to adopt rules to allow pharmacies to be reimbursed for dispensing the specified medications to Medicaid recipients and to identify the standards for qualified pharmacists. Licensed pharmacists are required to consult with the recipient and, when appropriate, refer the recipient to appropriate health care professionals.

A bill that came out of the Health Care Task Force, House Bill 1005, sponsored by Representative Massey and Senator Foster, passed on House Seconds and Thirds. The bill makes telemedicine eligible for reimbursement under the state's Medical Assistance Program in order to comply with direction from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It also eliminates incorrect references to the way reimbursement payments are made under the program.

On Tuesday, House Bill 1252, Concerning Health Care Services for Breast Cancer Screening, sponsored by Representative Primavera, and Senators Boyd and Schwartz, passed on Senate Second reading with amendments. The bill requires that breast cancer screening with mammography be individualized for each patient and that if a health care provider deems it to be medically appropriate, a breast cancer screening shall be a covered benefit. In 2009, the General Assembly changed the required breast cancer screening coverage provisions to tie them to the recommendations of the U.S. preventive services task force. This bill requires coverage for more frequent breast cancer screening than the task force recommendations if the screening is deemed medically appropriate.

On Thursday, House Bill 1242, Concerning Uniform Individualized Health Insurance Application, was heard before Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill requires the commissioner of insurance to implement a uniform application form for individual sickness and accident health benefit plans. The bill requires the commissioner to take recommendations from members of the insurance industry regarding the form and content of the uniform application form and to promulgate rules to require its exclusive use by the industry after January 1, 2012.

Also on Thursday, Medical Clean Claims, HB10-1332, sponsored by Representative Miklosi and Senator Romer, was heard before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill creates the "Medical Clean Claims Transparency and Uniformity Act" which requires the executive director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to establish a task force of industry and government representatives to develop a standardized set of payment rules and claim edits to be used by payers and health care providers in Colorado. The task force is to track the progress of the national initiative, known as the American society for quality initiative (ASQ initiative), in the development of a

national uniform, standardized set of rules and edits and avoid duplication of conflict with the ASQ initiative.

On Friday, HCPF Department bill 167, Medicaid Efficiency and False Claims, sponsored by Senator Boyd and Representative Riesberg, was heard in Senate Appropriations committee but was laid over.

Also on Friday, House Bill 1357, Concerning Creating a False Claims Act, sponsored by Representatives McFadyen and Judd and Senators Romer and Boyd, was heard before House Appropriations and passed amended the Committee of the Whole.

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this report, please contact Ginny Brown at 303-815-0652 or Nicole Storm at 303-748-5310